

### 3. Introduction

The compilation of this report is made possible through a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) awarded to Arizona by the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). To create this report, the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group, a subcommittee of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership, identified indicators of substance use consequence and consumption patterns and thoroughly analyzed available indicator data. The findings derived from these data are presented by area of substantive interest: Mortality; Morbidity; Consumption Patterns; and Consumption-Related Consequences.

The first Arizona Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile was completed in 2005. This second edition expands upon the earlier report in that it contains a broader array of epidemiological data, including measures of tobacco-related mortality and morbidity, outlines differential consequences and/or consumption patterns by gender and race/ethnicity, and provides a more complete look at methamphetamine use and its effects on Arizona's adults and youth.

This report provides a clear depiction of the impact of substance abuse on our state and its populace. In addition, it uncovers gaps in our data systems and discusses efforts already underway, and others that should be taken, to ensure data-driven decisions and solutions. Among our findings are the need for an adult substance abuse prevalence survey, increased reporting on indicators of methamphetamine use, and potential partnerships with tribal nations within Arizona to determine their substance abuse consumption and consequence patterns.

The data presented in this report give a robust picture of the impact of substance abuse on our state and its inhabitants. The findings contained herein should be used to guide decisions about the allocation of resources, including the funding of prevention, treatment and enforcement efforts, and should be utilized to inform the public about the prevalence of substance use and its associated consequences. This report facilitates data-driven decisions and solutions to the critical substance abuse problems facing Arizona and provides a foundation for reducing the state's substance use problem.

## Arizona Demographics

Arizona's diverse population spans more than 113,000 square miles, borders Mexico, and is experiencing rapid population growth. The state is comprised of 15 counties and 21 federally-recognized tribes.



### Tribes in Arizona

Ak-Chin Indian Community  
 Cocopah Tribe  
 Colorado River Indian Tribes  
 Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation  
 Fort Mojave Tribe  
 Gila River Indian Community  
 Havasupai Tribe  
 Hopi Tribe  
 Hualapai Tribe  
 Kaibab-Paiute Tribe  
 Navajo Nation  
 Pascua Yaqui Tribe  
 Quechan Tribe  
 Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community  
 San Carlos Apache Tribe  
 San Juan Southern Paiute  
 Tohono O'odham Tribe  
 Tonto Apache Tribe  
 White Mountain Apache Tribe  
 Yavapai-Apache Nation  
 Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

As of 2006, Arizona had an estimated population of 6,166,318 (U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, *2006 Population Estimates*, December 22, 2006). While the overall United States population grew 5.3% between 2000 and 2005, Arizona experienced a 18.1% growth during the same time period. The majority of Arizona's residents live in urban areas within Maricopa County, which is home to more than 3.6 million people, and in Pima County, where some 924,000 people reside. The remainder of Arizona's residents lives in the 13 other counties, which are considered rural areas (U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2005, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov>).

The median Arizona household income is \$41,963, slightly less than the national average of \$43,318. In Arizona, 13.9% of citizens live below the poverty line—slightly higher than the 12.5% national average (U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2005, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov>).

Overall, 87.4% of Arizona residents describe themselves as White (60.4% non-Hispanic White). Hispanic Arizonans constitute the largest ethnic minority in the state, accounting for 28.5% of the total population. At the national level, only 14.4% of individuals indicate that they belong to this ethnic group. Individuals who report being American Indian make up 5.1% of the population, and many identify themselves as members of one of the state's 21 federally-recognized tribes. In addition, 3.6% of Arizonans reported that they are Black, 2.2% of the population is Asian, and 1.5% reported a biracial background (U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2005, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov>).

Arizona is also linguistically diverse. It is estimated that 27.4% of individuals residing in Arizona speaks a language other than English at home. This exceeds the 19.4% of the national population that speaks a non-English language at home (U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey*, 2005, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov>).

### ***Drug Trafficking***

Arizona shares approximately 350 miles of border with Mexico, making it susceptible to transnational drug trafficking. In recent years, an increasing number of smugglers have traversed the sparse desert separating Arizona and Mexico to traffic drugs throughout the United States. Mexican smugglers typically conceal cocaine, black tar heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana in hidden vehicle compartments or on human pedestrians. Federal authorities seized 3,025 kilograms of cocaine, 86 kilograms of heroin, 669 kilograms of methamphetamine and 353,409 kilograms of marijuana in 2006. Agents often capture smugglers at one of the three Arizona principal ports of entry—Nogales, Douglas and San Luis. Law enforcement officials report increasing evidence that drug traffickers and illegal immigrants enter Arizona through subterranean tunnels or through relatively unguarded areas, especially the unguarded crossing points between Sierra Vista and Nogales. Furthermore, according to the DEA, there are limited law enforcement personnel patrolling the 90 miles of borderland between Mexico and the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation (Drug Enforcement Administration, 2007 Arizona, available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/arizona.html>).

While methamphetamine production in Mexico has increased sharply, chemical restrictions may make it difficult to sustain current production levels. There are no widely-accepted estimates regarding the amount of methamphetamine produced in Mexico; however, ample law enforcement reporting and drug seizure data at the U.S.-Mexico border indicate a significant increase in methamphetamine production in Mexico since 2003. Further production increases are unlikely in the near future, and sustaining the current high level of production in Mexico has become more difficult, since the Mexican Government recently reduced ephedrine and pseudoephedrine imports from 224 metric tons in 2004 to 132.5 metric tons in 2005 (with a goal of 70 metric tons for 2006). Attempts to defeat the chemical restrictions in Mexico will likely include routing chemical shipments through transit countries, particularly in Central and South America, for subsequent smuggling into Mexico (Drug Enforcement Administration, 2007 Arizona, available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/arizona.html>).